

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 8, wherein
the at least one touch sensor is further arranged to determine a parameter of a
respective one of the touched zones, said key allocation means being arranged to
allocate the reference keys having a size and/or form on said touch-sensitive member
5 depending on said parameter of the respective detected zone.
4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[2]] 8, wherein
said key allocation means is arranged to allocate said other keys having a size ~~and/or~~
~~form and orientation~~ on said touch-sensitive member depending on ~~said parameter of~~
~~the respective detected zone, or said size and/or form of the allocated reference keys~~
5 relative locations of the detected touch sensitive zones.
5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 8, wherein
said key allocation means is arranged to allocate four or eight reference keys upon
detecting four fingers of the user's left hand and/or four fingers of the user's right
hand touching the touch-sensitive member.
6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 8, wherein
said virtual keyboard has a QWERTY-type layout.
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing ~~The device of claim 7,~~ enabling a user to input characters, the device comprising:

a touch-sensitive member arranged to function as a virtual keyboard, said member including touch sensors for detecting a plurality of touched zones on said member;

a key allocation means for allocating (a) a plurality of reference keys of the virtual keyboard to respective zones on said member in response to said detection of touched zones and (b) other keys of the virtual keyboard upon allocating said reference keys;

wherein the virtual keyboard has two groups of keys, each group of keys including at least one reference key being allocated to said detected zones by said key allocation means, and other keys of the group of keys being allocated upon allocating at least one reference key of said group of keys; and

wherein said two groups of keys ~~may have a~~ have different orientations on the touch-sensitive member when the keys of said groups are allocated such that the two groups of keys are tilted relative to each other.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 8, further comprising at least one pressure sensor wherein the touch sensors for sensing sense a force of at least one finger on the touch-sensitive member.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 9, ~~wherein the at least one pressure sensor is arranged to identify~~ further including:

a stroke recognition means which recognizes a key stroke by analyzing a relative position of a zone touched by a finger causing a higher force on the touch-sensitive member higher than relative to positions of zones touched by other fingers when more than one finger touches said member with a lower force, such that the key stroke is determined by the relative position of the higher forced touched zone relative to the lower force touched zones rather than by location on the touch-sensitive member.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing ~~The device of claim 10, further~~ for enabling a user to input characters, the device comprising:

a touch-sensitive member arranged to function as a virtual keyboard, said member including sensors for detecting touched zones on said member and for
5 sensing a force of at least one finger on the touch-sensitive member, the sensors being configured to identify a finger causing a force on the touch-sensitive member higher than the other fingers when more than one finger touches said member;

a key allocation means for allocating at least two reference keys of the virtual keyboard to respective zones on said member in response to said detection of
10 touched zones; and

a key stroke recognition means ~~arranged~~ configured to recognize a key stroke by analyzing a relative position of the zone touched with the higher force with respect to a position of at least one other zone touched with a lower force.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, wherein said at least one zone~~[[s]]~~ touched by said other fingers with the lower force corresponds to at least one of said reference keys.

13. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, further comprising:

a key correction means for correcting a location of at least one of the reference keys by repeatedly allocating at least one of the reference keys.

14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 12, wherein said key correction means functions upon detecting a ~~substantial~~ change of position of at least one of said other fingers.

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, wherein said touch-sensitive member further comprises:

a display means arranged to display a representation of at least one reference key and/or other key of the virtual keyboard.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A The method of claim 17, further~~
enabling a user to input characters, the method comprising:

a step of detecting touched zones on a touch-sensitive member
configured to function as a virtual keyboard, and

5 a step of allocating at least two reference keys of the virtual keyboard
to respective zones on said member in response to said detection of touched zones,
and,

a step of sensing a force of at least one finger on the touch-sensitive
member, and

10 a step of identifying a finger causing a force on the touch-sensitive
member higher than other fingers when more than one finger touches said member,
and

a step of recognizing a key stroke by analyzing a relative position of
the zone touched with the higher force with respect to a position of at least one other
15 zone touched with a lower force.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium with
instructions that are executed on a program product enabling a programmable device,
when executing said computer program product, to function as the device perform the
method as defined in claim [[1]] 8.